

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-11 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the dependencies of claims 4-10 have been corrected.

Also, the claims have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the phrase "etc." has been deleted.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scherling, are respectfully requested.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the subject matter of claim 2 has been included in claim 1. Accordingly, it has been made clear that the mouthpiece of the snaffle bit according to the present invention extends across the tongue and lower jaw of the horse.

Applicants submit that the reference to Scherling, and none of the other references cited in the office action, discloses or suggests the present invention as it is claimed in the present

application.

(The prior art references are directed to snaffle bits which do not permit a gentle treatment of a horse.

In the snaffle bit according to the present invention, primarily the health of the horse was taken into consideration and the bit was anatomically adjusted to the upper and lower jaw, the tongue, the teeth and the surrounding soft tissue.

The essential feature of the present invention as claimed is the fact that the mouthpiece of the snaffle bit has a bow-shape whose curved configuration prevents pressure points at the aforementioned organs and does not provide the animal with an unpleasant feeling. The bow shape provides sufficient space for movements of mouth and tongue and permits the horse to breathe freely.

The reference to Scherling is directed to a bit with a mouthpiece of several chain link-like components which are pivotably connected to one another, wherein each chain link part is provided on one side thereof with protruding projections which lead to injuries on the interior of the mouth.

As mentioned in column 1, line 25, of the reference, preferably five chain link components are provided for forming a mouthpiece.

The mouthpiece according to the reference essentially corresponds to the unfitted or unadjusted snaffle bit mentioned in the specification of the present application which causes severe pain during use and results in injury and changes of the jaw parts and teeth.

The snaffle bit according to the reference to Scherling is not positionally stable during use and the mouthpiece has sheering points which cause injury to the soft parts of the mouth.

The use of such unfitted mouthpieces for guiding horses is to be rejected because it causes deformations in the mouth area and the resulting severe pain causes psychological damage; breathing is also impaired.

The snaffle bit according to the present invention, on the other hand, does not cause unacceptable loads acting on the upper jaw and lower jaw.

Because of the specific curved configuration of the mouthpiece according to the present invention, the snaffle bit is ergonomical, while the snaffle bits according to the references, especially the one of Scherling, do not permit a gentle guidance of the horse. In the case of a pulling action on the snaffle bit of Scherling, the horse suffers pain because of the chain links being pulled together and the horse becomes unnecessarily frightened.

The snaffle bit according to the reference does not have a bow shape which is capable of supporting the mouthpiece and which provides the snaffle bit with a positional stability.

The snaffle bit of the reference to Scherling rests with the chain link components thereof in an unstable manner on the tongue and the lower jaw and the soft part thereof and a high load occurs when a pulling action is carried out.

Accordingly, the reference to Scherling does not disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed because it does not show the specific curved bow shape of the mouth piece of the present invention.

The present invention as claimed is also not disclosed or

suggested by the references listed by the Examiner in paragraph 6 of the office action.

None of the prior art snaffle bits is suitable for a gentle treatment of a horse and none of the snaffle bits has the structural features of the snaffle bit according to the present invention as claimed.

The snaffle bit according to U.S. Patent 4,005,564 includes a two-part rod which extends transversely through the mouth, wherein the connecting point of the rod components forms tight areas which press ion the tongue, and the center coupling member 22 results in a high danger of injury.

The snaffle bit according to U.S. Patent 976,058 corresponds approximately to the configuration of the reference to Scherling and during use leads to a high risk of injury.

U.S. Patent 657,762 is directed to a snaffle bit which includes a two-part rod which extends transversely through the mouth, wherein the rod components are connected to each other in the manner of chain links. This unstable and non-uniform snaffle bit also does not take into consideration the health of a horse, but it produces a pressure on the mouth parts which leads to

injuries.

The snaffle bit according to U.S. Patent 4, 587,797 includes a rigid transverse rod which extends essentially horizontally through the mouth, wherein the transverse rod does not provide for adjustments to the mouth of a horse. The mouthpiece is also not shaped like a bow; however, the mouthpiece rests on the tongue and renders the tongue immobile, so that circulation through the tongue and breathing are impaired. If a pulling action is carried out on the snaffle bit, it presses with a high force on the tongue and restricts the movement of mouth and jaw.

The snaffle bit according to U.S. Patent 3,623,294 does not have any of the advantageous features of the present invention and is absolutely unsuitable for a gentle treatment of a horse.

The snaffle bit according to U.S. Patent 6,202,393 also leads to an increased risk of injury because it constantly presses down the tongue and the connecting member 10 injures the tongue and the gum of the horse.

U.S. Patent 584,582 is directed to a mouth piece in the form of a rod which extends transversely through the mouth and which does not make possible any adjustments and does not gently treat

the organs in the area of the mouth.

The snaffle bits according to U.S. Patent 443,533 differ significantly from the snaffle bit according to the present invention with respect to the configuration of the mouthpiece.

In summary, it can be stated that the prior art snaffle bits have harmful effects on the health of a horse and negatively affect the feelings of a horse and the mobility of important organs in the head area. This contradicts a correct treatment of the horse.

The easily frightened character of a horse can only be correctly treated by gently acting means.

Submitted herewith is a copy of a brochure which illustrates the use of the snaffle bit according to the present invention.

The illustrations of the brochure show clearly that the snaffle bit does not have any parts which would result in pain and upper and lower jaws remain free of injuries. The illustrations further show the transition-free connection between the mouthpiece components which is a result of the claimed curved bow shape. Accordingly, the mouthpiece of the present invention

is shaped in such a way that friction relative to tongue, gum and soft parts of the horse cannot occur.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention as claimed is not disclosed or suggested by the references of record.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,



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